

**Rumson Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of February 20, 2014**  
**Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room**

*The Chairman declared a quorum present and announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met by the posting and mailing of a schedule of all regular meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission for 2014 to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times.*

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Charles Shay. Also present were Trustees: James Fitzmaurice, Steven Peterson, Ross Millhiser, Secretary Roberta Van Anda and newly elected Councilwoman Laura Atwell. Not present was Planning Board Liaison Tom Clark.

Mr. Shay began the meeting with an explanation on the change in leadership of the Commission. He thanked Mr. Fitzmaurice for the enormous amount of time and effort that he has given to the Commission. His contribution to the mission and goals of this group have been greatly appreciated.

The next item on the agenda was the **Election of Officers**. Mr. Fitzmaurice nominated Mr. Shay to be the next Chairman, and Mrs. Atwell seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, Mr. Shay was elected as the new Chairman of the Commission.

Mr. Shay nominated Mrs. Van Anda as Secretary, and Mrs. Atwell seconded the nomination. By unanimous vote, Mrs. Van Anda was returned to her position of Secretary.

Mr. Shay then suggested that a Vice-Chairman be appointed. Mrs. Van Anda nominated Mr. Tom Clark, and Mr. Fitzmaurice seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, Mr. Clark was selected as the Vice-Chairman.

The **minutes** of the September 19, 2013 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Peterson which was seconded by Mr. Fitzmaurice. The approved minutes are now to be forwarded to Councilman Ben Day for inclusion on the Borough website, as well as being copied to the Mayor and Mr. Rogers as has been done in the past.

Chairman Shay reported that he has reviewed minutes containing directives from the Mayor and Council and also the Borough Administrator and he has had a discussion with Mr. Rogers. He suggested that the Commission consider

amending the mission statement and objectives to align with what the Mayor and Council expect from the Commission. This was agreed to, and Mr. Clark will review the documents and come back with suggestions for additions or changes.

Chairman Shay informed the members that our first job is to finish the list of significant historic houses that we have been attempting to create for a long period of time. He has obtained a list of all properties in town that, among other facts, provides the year of their construction. This document will take much guess-work out of the process and enable the Commission to provide a list to verify for accuracy and clarity. We no longer have every house in the community to assess—the list indicates that there are 398 properties that are 100 years old or older of which we need to determine if they are historically significant.

For many months, members have hoped to obtain a list of suggestions from former member Peter Goodhue. Many ideas that he presented during his time on the Commission were considered to be of value, and he intended to write them up and provide that list to the group. Attempts to reach him have not been fruitful, and Mr. Peterson was asked to try again.

At our meeting with the Mayor in April, mention was made of Mrs. Love's leave of absence from the Commission. The minutes of the meeting with the Mayor indicated that we are not permitted to carry a non-participating member, however Mrs. Love would always be welcome back on the Commission, if and when there is a vacancy.

### **New Business**

Chairman Shay discussed sub-committees and named members to them. He reiterated that the major goal is to complete and publish the list of 100 year old and older properties that are historically significant. He and Mr. Fitzmaurice and Mr. Millhiser will work as a sub-committee to verify the historic significance of the houses and to plot them on the lot and block maps. Mr. Peterson expressed an interest in being a part of this, and he will be included whenever possible without violating the Sunshine Law.

A sub-committee consisting of Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Atwell will speak with Mr. Day to see if he feels that it would be useful for him to attend the next Commission meeting or would he prefer to meet only with them to explore ideas about the Borough Website. Our major question is if the Commission should create its own website or should it be included on the Borough website. Mr. Peterson and Ms. Atwell were asked to report back on this at the next meeting.

The communication process between the Commission and Council and Zoning and Planning Boards was discussed. Councilwoman Atwell and Planning Board Member Clark are designated as the liaison to their respective groups and were asked to report back on their communication plans.

Chairman Shay spoke about the request from the Mayor for a quarterly report on the progress of the Commission and indicated that he will take responsibility for this report.

Chairman Shay asked that all committees meet at least once in the next month and report back to the entire Commission at the next meeting.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Peterson informed the members that he has found a college intern to help with our website and database. From his Architectural Theory class at Brookdale Community College, Mr. Peterson has selected Brian Malley. It was agreed to place Mr. Malley on the agenda to meet us at the next meeting.

Chairman Shay asked Mrs. Van Anda to handle guest speakers, events and news releases for the Commission. She discussed the book that she is working on, *Legendary Locals of Rumson*, and asked members for input on notable residents who should be included. She also volunteered to do a lecture and book event in conjunction with the Commission when the book is released later this year.

Chairman Shay asked Mr. Millhiser to review materials and research the State Historic Preservation Commission. He was asked to present his opinion on the wisdom of possible future participation with the State organization at the next meeting.

Future meeting dates were discussed, and it was decided to continue meeting at the current time slot of the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM

The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 20, 2014 at 6:00 PM. After a review of each member's assignments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM after a motion by Mr. Peterson seconded by Mr. Millhiser.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary